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December 18, 2009



# Deliman's reality TV doesn't save his smokes

## 90TH PRECINCT

**Williamsburg-Bushwick**  
For the second time in two days, the owner of Moe's Deli saw a thief break into his Grand Street store early on Dec. 9, but by the time he got downstairs, the perp was gone.

The deli owner has security cameras installed at his home, but he said that from his upstairs apartment in the building near Graham Avenue at around 1:30 am, he saw thief break through the window of the store and take a safe with \$3,000 plus \$200 worth of Newport cigarettes.

## Straphangered

A pair of perps snatched a man's phone while he was waiting for a bus at the corner of Lorimer Street and Boerum Street on Dec. 10.

The victim was at the bus

stop at 7:30 am when two thugs started walking his way.

"Give me your cellphone or we'll break your neck," the commando prompted the man to hand over his BlackBerry Pearl.

The two hoodwinked fled down Lorimer Street.

## Keyed out

A thief cleared out a S. Fifth Street apartment while the owner was cutting out the Dec. 10.

The victim was shopping and dining from 3 until 8:15 pm, during which time his neighbors heard a crashing sound coming from the victim's room. When the resident returned, he discovered that someone had taken three computers and an expensive television set from the room, which is Kent Street.

The victim told police that his roommate had lost his keys and was gone.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at [BrooklynPaper.com/blotter](http://BrooklynPaper.com/blotter)

## 98TH PRECINCT

**Fort Greene-Clyinton Hill**

## Mobile felon

Cops caught a 17-year-old thief after a cellphone-stealing spree on Dec. 8.

The thief, who incurred a scratch on his knee, was walking home at 10:42 am near the corner of Clinton and Lafayette Avenue when a perp grabbed her hair and pulled out some of her hair in the struggle.

Cops nabbed him the same day.

## Retail rampage

Shoppers beware! Atlantic Avenue clothing emporiums are rife with crime this holiday season. One thief even snatched a woman's purse in the Atlantic Center Mall on Dec. 9.

Minutes later, the feisty

thief found another victim on St. James Place near Gates Avenue. She told police that she was having a phone conversation when a man snatched her purse, pulling out some of her hair in the struggle.

Cops nabbed him the same day.

## Sabrina Jaszi

—

She

was a high schooler who told cops that she sneaked brushed her diaper bag at 2 pm and took off her bag and only change, she said.

But minutes later, the thief snagged an older woman's bag from her purse. She later found the bag hanging from a fence, but \$200 had been removed, along with all of her credit cards.

One day earlier, a thief tried to rip off Old Navy's pounds of stuff, including \$1,388 worth of tops — though it turned out it was an inside job.

A thief called a party because he was a cop.

The victim told police that she was on Lafayette Avenue when a man who looked vaguely familiar ran up and grabbed her purse — which contained an iPhone and \$20.

Two days later, she remembered that face — the man had been arrested for shoplifting and cops arrested him.

## 5-buck muck

A thug held up a woman at gunpoint for a paltry sum on Dec. 10.

The victim was walking home at 1:50 am and was at her South Street home between Sixth and Seventh avenues at around 8 pm when he was shoved from behind, sending him smashing to the pavement.

Before he could fully react, a fast-moving, though full-figured, thug took his

briefcase and sped off in the direction of J.J. Byrne Park three blocks away.

Consequently, the thief took the cellphone and laptop computer out of the briefcase, which he then handed off to an accomplice inside the historic park on Fifth Avenue.

Police say they are looking for a 20-year-old man with a Caesar's-style haircut.

## Burg meister

A thief burst into a Carroll Street apartment on Dec. 10 and stole thousands in electronics and jewelry.

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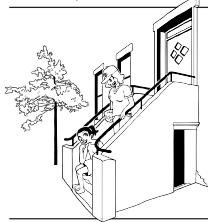
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# THE stoop

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

## COLUMBIA ST

### Stalled project creates traffic

By Stephen Brown

*The Brooklyn Paper*  
Columbia Street residents are sick and tired of construction delays on neighboring Van Brunt Street that are causing traffic congestion in their sleepy corner of the world.

The stretch of Van Brunt between Degraw Street and Hamilton Avenue is designed as a two-way thoroughfare for trucks into and out of Red Hook—but the stalled reconstruction of those six blocks has resulted in an unending nightmare of northbound trucks on narrow, two-way Columbia Street.

"This seems like a cursed project," said Craig Hammerman, the district manager of Community Board 6, citing work that began in 2005. "There doesn't seem to be any momentum to it."

However, city officials showed signs of life after The Brooklyn Paper started asking questions about a possible timeline for restarting the project. As a result, construction is finally scheduled to begin next week—Fifteen days after last testifying, Van Brunt Street starts and the end of December. The tests must be re-conducted because previous samples from three years ago have expired like a carton of milk.

Council members are pushing the delays to budget issues that kept any shovels from going in the ground—still, those issues were resolved in October.

Once the battery of tests are completed and the proper permits from environmental agencies secured, the road can be closed to traffic while new utilities, traffic signals, sidewalks and pavement are installed.

Though a small six-block strip may seem relatively insignificant, it actually follows the restricted B61 bus route, which runs along Columbia Street, which was to be the focus of the city's initial overhaul.

Now, it appears residents have no option but to wait. Until the results of the environmental tests are completed, the construction is on hold, Hammerman said.

"Why should this corner be neglected because it's not Seventh Avenue or Flatbush Avenue?" the exasperated district manager asked. "This isn't just about an inconvenience, it's about safety. It is hard for a bus and a truck to pass each other."

### Another salting

By Stephen Brown

*The Brooklyn Paper*  
A waterfront shipping company has once again poured salt in the wound on Columbia Street.

Last Wednesday, locals near Baltic Street emerged from their homes to find themselves in a surreal winter wonderland—the result of dusting of America's favorite flavor—salt—and American Steel & Wire's port.

"It was like it had snowed," said one resident, Laura Young. "You walk outside and you get a nasty film in your mouth. It's just gross—like someone dumped a salt shaker on us."

The 30,000-ton mound of salt was finally covered up by Saturday morning.

The second time salt has covered the neighborhood. Earlier this year, the same thing happened, prompting community organizations and local politicians.

The heaping pile of salt, which first appeared in 2005, is cause for concern among some locals, who cite studies that found that the granules could be damaging to the skin and lungs.

"It's more than anything else," said Young, who sent over some pictures of drooping flowers, dusted doors and soiled steps. "For a while, cocoa beans were being shipped nearby and it smelled like chocolate. That wasn't healthy—bad salt."

American Steel & Wire says the incident was actually the result of an effort to better secure the tarp for the winter.

"We were performing some covering work [on the salt]," said Matt Yates, a spokesman for the company. "Unfortunately, the contractor picked a windy day to do it. No good deed goes unpunished, and the wind created a rip in the tarp."



Baltic Street resident Laura Young snapped the picture of her tree swamped in salt.

## PARK SLOPE



### Mind the 'GAP'

#### City may actually fix the northern part of troubled Grand Army Plaza

By Sabrina Jacci

*The Brooklyn Paper*

The city has lavished its traffic-calming gifts on the southern portion of Grand Army Plaza—but now, the department of transportation is poised, Santa-like, to start working on the North Prospect Heights circle.

Proposals are afoot to improve traffic flow through the circle where six busy avenues converge in a Paris-like manner, making it that favors automobiles over every other potential user.

"Grand Army Plaza works well for cars, but not for people," said Robert Witherwax, the coordinator of the Grand Army Plaza Coalition, an umbrella group of Park Slope and Prospect Heights residents.

"We'd like to improve that without limiting its function as a traffic rotary."

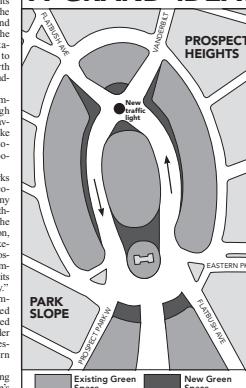
Grand Army Plaza works well for cars, but not for people in any other way," said Robert Witherwax, the coordinator of the Grand Army Plaza Coalition, an umbrella group of Park Slope and Prospect Heights.

"We'd like to improve that without limiting its function as a traffic rotary."

As a result, some of the barriers that keep the northern end of the plaza could be absorbed back into the center and landscaped to promote a more park-like feel.

"People think Grand Army Plaza is also a park because the green space is underused and difficult to get

#### A 'GRAND' IDEA?



After doing some good work on the south end of Grand Army Plaza, now the city is hoping to fix the ugly, accident-prone north end.

Currently, an northbound car that needs to get onto Prospect Park West or Union Street has to enter the westernmost lane to enter the loop and eventually swing around to the southbound side of the circle.

But the average driver has to swing across five lanes of traffic to make his right turn on Union Street or to go straight to Prospect Park West (see map).

The howling, grand-prix-style switchbacks explain the popular expression, "They're not nice to us in Grand Army Plaza."

The suggested improvements would do away with the loop and install a traffic light with a left turn signal at the intersection of Vanderbilt and Flatbush avenues inside the circle.

With the traffic change would do driving safer, but also help make drivers and cyclists who want to get to the city's central business district easier. "We created Bailey Fountain and Soldiers and Sailors arch. As a result, some of the barriers that keep the northern end of the plaza could be absorbed back into the center and landscaped to promote a more park-like feel."

"People think Grand Army Plaza is also a park because the green space is underused and difficult to get

## WILLIAMSBURG

### St. Nick — hittin' the sauce!



The many faces of Claus were on display at the "Santa Con" at Brooklyn Bowl on Sunday, giving us a look at what we've never seen him! (Far left) Santa grabs a cold one. (Left) The Big Man texts about all the fun guys he's meeting.

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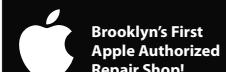
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AWP 5



# Meat me at Red Bamboo

**Fort Greene restaurant owner brings in flesh**

**By Stephen Brown**  
The Brooklyn Paper

Veganism may not be dead, but it's certainly on life support.

The latest example? Red Bamboo, the beloved fake meat restaurant in Fort Greene, known for its poplar "beef" kabobs and pseudo soy sausages. Is it killing the meat-free life like a college freshman running away from his parents?

Starting next week, the restaurant will change its name to Peppa's Place and start serving — holy alfalfa sprouts — real animal flesh.

Owner Jason Wong says he was completely ditched by his iron-seeking vegan customers — he'll keep the most popular items on the menu. But Wong needed to come clean about his own personal betrayal of what his siders call The Life.

"I'm not going to be the former vegetarian," said the former vegetarian. "And I'm ready to serve meat."

He's not the only one. This year, "Brooklyn Gets Veg" week has caused a flicker of interest altogether. Last year, during the second —



No "dilemma": Jason Wong, owner of Red Bamboo in Fort Greene, will cater to omnivores.

and as it turned out, last year of the fortnight of legumes and seitan, vegetarians were already saying their customer base was in steep decline.

The Brooklyn Paper's coverage said it all: "Stick a fork in us, we're 40-point heading down." Vegetarian wills on eve of boro fest."

Now, more soy chickens

have come home to roost.

"When we opened 2006, we were full, people wanted to try our food," said Wong. "Now it's different."

"Then 2008 came, I noticed credit cards sales higher than cash. Then in 2009, it was like, whoa, where did the customers go?"

But the economy was

from the only culprit.

Organic, free-range, "humanely slaughtered" meats are now all the rage, giving carnivores a full menu of excuses.

"The concern now is more about locally grown and less of a carbon footprint. Being a carnivore doesn't mean you don't care," Wong said.

"The trend in restaurants is toward less processed food,

more naturally raised," added Wong's chef Billie Ahearn. "With all the processing that the soy product goes through, and the science that has come along, it, soy seems to have gotten a bit rap lately." (Not to mention the fact that the cost of soy products has skyrocketed by 35 percent since 2006.)

Even Melissa Danielle, who spearheaded the ill-fated "Veg Week," has moved away from her advocacy in favor of organic foods.

"I am more interested in... making sure that all Brooklyn's have healthy, healthy, quality affordable food," she said.

Danielle said in an e-mail.

Of course, if toxic meat appears in the headlines again, the vegetarian ranks could swell again.

"There hasn't been an animal epidemic in a while," said Wong. "It's like Flu, hoof and mouth, mad cow... those helped my business so much."

Postmen Place, formerly Red Bamboo, 2771 Adelphi St. at Dekalb Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 643-4805.

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## He's lit up over Key Food menorah

**I**t's the most wonderful time of the year — unless you're Mike Jordings, the manager of the Key Food in Windsor Terrace.

This year, Jordings tried to bring a little Hanukkah cheer to his Jewish customers, so he let a local rabbi put up a menorah in front of the Prospect Avenue store.

Naturally, all hell broke loose.

Within hours of Rabbi

Moche Hecht's big menorah lighting on the third night of Hanukkah on Sunday, Jordings started hearing complaints from his non-Jewish customers.

So he installed a Christmas tree.

Hell remained unmet. So he removed both religious icons.

"I made a mistake, I guess," Jordings said. "I was a nice guy."

**THE BROOKLYN ANGLE**  
By Gersh Kuntzman



For Jordings, the crisis hadn't died down yet, with supporters of the menorah still in the Chabad of Windsor

Trance posting a letter from the rabbis on a Windsor Terrace blog spoke of an "extraordinarily disgruntled" Jordings' decision as well as "the apparent lack of neighborly respect for our holiday celebration."

Jordings' letter urged "everyone to personally speak with the manager [and] ask him what happened."

His letter had the desired effect.

"I don't think I'll be supporting Key Food anymore, considering they don't support me," posted one Jewish guy finish last," he said.

reader, who did not leave his name.

Of course, like the Talmud, this story has lots of interpretations.

To Hecht, the sinister hand of anti-Semitism is at work again.

"There's a context here; just a lot of people are confused about what's going on in the Chabad center that was defaced with racial slurs. And now to see that the entire market is prepared to take down a menorah, that's really bad."

"It feels like there's some anti-Semitism here," he concluded.

Jordings wasn't sure.

"I encourage [him] not to be swayed by those few elements among the commenters that are intolerant and unfriendly," Hecht continued.

His letter had the desired effect.

"I don't think I'll be supporting Key Food anymore, considering they don't support me," posted one Jewish guy finish last," he said.

The manager at the Key Food on Prospect Avenue in Windsor Terrace took down his menorah and Christmas tree after protests — though the interior is still festooned with holiday decorations.

The Brooklyn Paper photo

**Key Food** on Prospect Avenue in Windsor Terrace took down his menorah and Christmas tree after protests — though the interior is still festooned with holiday decorations.

\*All sales are final and may not be combinable with any other discount or previous sale. Engagement Jewelry, antique watches, custom orders and special orders are excluded from this sale. Quantities of merchandise are limited and on a first come - first serve basis. Lay-a-way and merchandise bought before Nov. 21st does not apply to this sale. Sale ends Dec. 25th, 2009.



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## DECEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS



### Our Best Buys for December!

#### Oxford Landing GSM

Grenache, Shiraz & Mourvèdre... what a delicious blend! Ripe aromas of raspberry, plums, white peppercorns, nutmeg & all-spice... plus flavors of cherries, red berries, plums and more spices. This wine is a perfect cold weather red to serve with roasts, stews, chili & grilled foods.



#### San Jose Shiraz/Tempranillo

Beautiful purple shades in the glass. This Argentinian red is a full bodied wine with mature berries and spices. Well balanced in acidity and soft tannins we suggest you pair this with grilled lamb kabobs, pepper steak with sautéed mushrooms or a simple sausage and pepper hero.



#### Villa Polizzi Nero D'Avola

The "Emperor" of Sicilian grapes! Look at the intensely dark red color and you just know that this wine will be rich and full bodied! The aromas are heady and seductive, with notes of fresh figs, blackberries, red raspberries, vanilla, saddle leather and white flowers. The complex red berry flavors are what you'd expect from a more expensive bottle: sumptuous, full bodied, creamy and concentrated.



#### Brut Pol Blanc

This Blanc de Blanc has all the bubbly qualities, but doesn't put a dent in your pocket. Big, bold, apple yeast aromatics give you a sensory rush to start and is followed by a well balanced length and mouth feel to this sparkling dry Chardonnay. Apples are prominent along with some expressive beading that tickles you in all the right places. Yes, it's that time of year to pop the bubbly. An EXCELLENT value! Cheers!

Buy our Best Buys 4 Pack and Save 10%

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### Our December Discovery Wines!

#### Hosmer Cabernet Franc

Hosmer's Winery's flagship

red is extremely aromatic with violets and lavender on the nose. The front palate is filled with red raspberry and black currant flavors, wrapped with firm tannins and dark plums on the back finish. Pair with grilled or roasted meats like prime rib or filet mignon, hearty or spicy pasta dishes. What a delicious surprise!



#### Hosmer Pinot Gris

This Cayuga Lake Pinot Gris displays melon and mineral aromas followed by a nice lingering finish. This Finger's Lake Pinot Gris is bright, clean, low acidity, and elegant. Serve with your Holiday antipasto to plates, mussels, grilled fish, or shellfish.

Buy both Discovery Wines and Save 10%

\$35.01



### December Spirit of the Month

#### Saaga Rye vodka

It should have hints of true grain flavor. A subtle aroma. A lingering smoothness. Real vodka should be something you can smell, sip and savor. When you mix it, it should reinvent your signature drink. Real vodka should not have dirty secrets. Because you have to filter those out, and when you do, you take the good character with the bad. Saaga 1763 has a perfect balance of purity and a smooth taste and aroma that retain the fine character of the grain. The vital grain and slow distillation method provides the unique and original taste of Saaga 1763. Saaga Rye Vodka is so smooth you can truly enjoy it like fine cognac; straight up, slow sipping. Bring this along to your Holiday parties.



### December Cellar Selection

#### Alta Catena Chardonnay

This is another perfect representation of why Nicolas Catena has been selected "Decanter of the Year for 2009." His 2007 Catena Alta Chardonnay has a bright, golden yellow color which has been barrel-fermented in 50% new French oak with native yeasts followed by 12-18 months in barrel with frequent batonnage. The nose shows an excellent mixture of citrus fruit interwoven with honey, tropical fruit notes and floral tones and a hint of vanilla. The mouthfeel is rich and concentrated showing ripe pear, apple and apricot flavors with a light note of sweet nutmeg spice. The finish shows bright, clean acidity and wonderful length. We loved his Cabernet Sauvignon so much from last month's Cellar Selections as did you, we decided to showcase his Alta Chardonnay this month. This is the PERFECT stocking stuffer or holiday gift for that one person we all know that has just about everything.



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December 18, 2009



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## 'Re-cyclers' will plead not guilty

By Andy Campbell  
for The Brooklyn Paper

The bike-lane vigilantes who allegedly attacked a Bedford Avenue cycle path two Fridays ago will plead not guilty to the charge of criminal mischief, the two "re-cyclers" told The Brooklyn Paper.

Suspects Quinton O'Leary, 26, and Katherine Picocchi, 24, wouldn't comment on the record, but their lawyer Gideon Oliver said that the pair will fight the criminal mischief charge.

"There are a lot of factors here, and I'm investigating what else might have been involved," Oliver said.

The story that has gripped city dwellers since Dec. 4, when the Department of Transportation removed a 14-block stretch of bike lanes between Flushing and Division avenues,



A band of at least four rebels promptly repainted the lane with homemade stencils — there's a YouTube video to prove it (naturally).

"These people are community heroes," said Oliver Gideon, an Orthodox Jew and owner of the Williamsburg shop, Trail Bike Geschäft.

According to his retelling, a band of Williamsburg residents and security forces intervened and called police when the bikers returned to the scene of the alleged crime three days later.

An NYPD investigation revealed that at least four other Williamsburg bikers and two Hasidim were among the suspects, though it's unclear whether more arrests will be made.

Herzfeld claimed that the Shomrim overstepped its authority.

"They saw somebody that was suspicious and grabbed some people," Herzfeld alleged. "The Hasidic people went to Copernicus to speak at the climate change rally."

"He gave a speech about how green he is," said Herzfeld. "But it's hypocritical to remove a bike lane and then talk about what an environmentalist you are."

Beyond the involvement of the Hasidic community, the bike lane's removal and repainting has once again revealed deep divisions within the Hasidic community of South Williamsburg.

Activists claim that the Bedford Avenue bike lane hindered buses dropping off children at nearby religious schools — yet other Hasidim were apparently involved in the effort to restore the lane.

Herzfeld claimed that the Shomrim overstepped its authority.

"They saw somebody that was suspicious and grabbed some people," Herzfeld alleged. "The Hasidic people went to Copernicus to speak at the climate change rally."

"He gave a speech about how green he is," said Herzfeld. "But it's hypocritical to remove a bike lane and then talk about what an environmentalist you are."

## CYCLIST...

*Continued from page 1*  
ination of the cycle path between Flushing Avenue and Division Street would make them less safe.

"This really speaks to the reason we fight for all those bike lanes," said Ben Shatz, who helped organize Sunday's bike lane protest. "It's not about hipsters or the Hasidim like everyone thinks. It's talking about safety — it's public safety. This girl should have been able to ride along and not take her life in her hands." Shatz, a 20-year veteran for GhostBikes, a program that memorializes bikers who struck and killed by a fixie and an urban commuter in the intersection. He said Rainey probably would probably be remembered in the same way.

## BOOBS...

*Continued from page 1*  
In the wake of the death, Transcend, a neighborhood group and neighborhood activists Good Growth called for safety improvements at the intersection.

"The [city] is using federal transportation funds to reconstruct Nassau Avenue along most of its length by 2012, but safety improvements to the intersection on McGuinness Boulevard are not a top priority feature of the plan," the groups said in a statement that called for widening sidewalks at corners to slow down drivers and add other medians on McGuinness Boulevard to provide refuge for pedestrians, and the removal of one parking spot from all four corners to create longer sightlines.

South Williamsburg there are deep divisions. Some Hasidic leaders claim that Spanish-clad cyclists slow down buses dropping off children at nearby religious schools, yet other Hasidim were said to have been involved in the repainting.

Few protesters believe that the city will restore the lane, so for now, they're calling for a show of force.

"Our message is clear and direct: show the community that we do use and need all bike lanes," said event organizer Barbara Ross.

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## 'Re-cyclers' will plead not guilty

By Andy Campbell  
for The Brooklyn Paper

The bike-lane vigilantes who allegedly attacked a Bedfodl biker last cycle path two Fridays ago will plead not guilty to the charge of criminal mischief, the Brooklyn paper told The Brooklyn Paper.

Suspects Quinn Hertzel, 26, and Katherine Pichocchi, 24, wouldn't comment on the record, but their lawyer Gideon Oliver said that the pair will fight the criminal mischief charge.

"There are a lot of factors here, and I'm investigating what else might have been involved," Oliver said.

The story that the group of cyclists attacked on Dec. 1 came from the Department of Transportation removed a 14-block stretch of bike lane between Flushing and Division avenues.

A band of at least four rebels promptly repainted the lane with homemade signs and painted for Good Growth called for safety improvements at the intersection.

"The [city] is using federal funds to reconstruct Nassau Avenue along most of its length by 2012, but safety improvements to the McGuiness Boulevard are not a significant feature of the plan," the groups said in a statement.

That called for widening sidewalks at corners to slow down drivers, adding wider medians on McGuiness Boulevard to provide refuge for pedestrians, and the removal of one parking spot from all four corners to create longer sightlines.

In the wake of the death, Tragedy strikes again. After the lanes and neighborhood called for Good Growth called for safety improvements at the intersection.

"The [city] is using federal funds to reconstruct Nassau Avenue along most of its length by 2012, but safety improvements to the McGuiness Boulevard are not a significant feature of the plan," the groups said in a statement.

That called for widening sidewalks at corners to slow down drivers, adding wider medians on McGuiness Boulevard to provide refuge for pedestrians, and the removal of one parking spot from all four corners to create longer sightlines.



According to his retelling, a band of Williamsburg residents and security forces intervened and called police when the bikers returned to the scene of the alleged crime three days later.

An NYPD investigation revealed at least four other Williamsburg bikers and two Hasidim were among the suspects, though it's unclear whether more arrests will be made.

Hertzel claimed that the Shomrim overstepped its authority.

"They saw somebody that was suspicious and grabbed some people," Hertzel alleged. "The Hasidic community was very upset, which would have some thoughtless individuals."

Shomrim representatives wouldn't comment on the incident or shed light on their authority in relation to the police.

Beyond the involvement of the neighborhood, the bike lane's removal and repairing has once again revealed deep divisions within the Hasidic community of South Williamsburg.

The Hasidic community claims that the Bedford Avenue bike lane hindered buses dropping off children at nearby religious schools — yet other Hasidim were apparently involved in the effort to restore the lane.

The timing of the lane's removal was not without some irony, Hertzel added. After all, Mayor Bloomberg went to Copenhagen to speak at the climate-change conference.

"I gave a speech about how green he is," said Hertzel. "But it's hypocritical to remove a bike lane and then talk about what an environmentalist you are."

## CYCLIST...

*Continued from page 6*  
ination of the cycle path between Flushing Avenue and Division Street would make them less safe.

"This really speaks to the reason we fight for all bike lanes," said Ben Shorin, who helped organize Sunday's bike lane protest.

"It's not about hipsters or the Hasidim like everyone thinks," Shorin said. "It's about public safety. This girl should have been able to ride along and not take her life in her hands."

Shorin, a worker for GhoshBikes, a program that memorializes bikers who were struck and killed by afixing an "it's a bike lane" sticker. He said Rainey probably would have remembered in the same way.

## BOOBS...

*Continued from page 6*  
But the message was clear: bike lanes are safe and environmentally friendly, and their removal doesn't prove anything. "People have had one theory or another on the nature of the loss."

"It was a political deal," said Geoff Zinn, who stated it was the city's body. The Hasidic community say the removal of the lane was for safety, but how does that make any sense? It's a bike lane!

Even within the insular Hasidic community of

South Williamsburg there are deep divisions. Some Hasidic leaders claim that Spanish-clad cyclists slow down buses dropping off children at nearby religious schools, yet other Hasidim were said to have been involved in the repairing.

Few protesters believe that the city will restore the lane, so for now, they're calling for a show of force.

"Cyclists are individuals and individuals show the community that we do use and need all bike lanes," said event organizer Barbara Ross.

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*The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings*

December 18, 2009

# Beast master

*Jonathan Safran Foer writes a treatise against meat*

By Gersh Kuntzman  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

I ordered the chicken sandwich. Now such a decision rarely involves self-doubt, but when dining with novelist Jonathan Safran Foer — whose new book, "Eating Animals," consists of 300 pages of hand-wringing against the consumption of meat — there's nothing simple about it.

"I'll just have the Tuscan chicken," he says.

"Yet Foer's reaction during a recent lunch at Sweet Melissa Patisserie near the author's Park Slope home was anything but uniform. Despite having written one of the most eloquent, compelling, slam-dunk arguments against eating animals, Foer is no proselytizer. And his views are not Biblical, but a sober exploration of why he no longer wants to play even a small role in propelling up our nation's industrial-political complex."

"I never actually [tell people] to stop eating meat," he says, describing a section in the book that friends should never let friends eat face-to-face. "I know that I should, but my interest is in having people eat less meat. I'm telling people they should eat less of something is usually not a good way of having them actually decrease their consumption."

So I order the chicken, which is an odd choice given how the 32-year-old Foer is one of the greatest writers of his generation, thanks to the 2002 masterpiece "Everything is Illuminated" and the 2005 heartbreaker "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," deftly used his novelist eye to describe just how disgusting the modern factory farm is.



After slaughter, the still-warm chickens, for example, are hung in huge racks over heated water — water the same call "fecal soup" because there's actual chicken feces in it.

Oh, it gets worse.

The food industry wants the birds cooling in water instead of ice because while they're cooling, chicken carcasses absorb this "fouled, chlorinated" fecal soup. Up to 11 percent of a chicken's weight in the supermarket is this very water.

Obviously, the food industry could ensure that chickens are always cooling in pristine water, but given the demands of processing billions of chickens every year, doing so would take time and cost money. And there goes your 49-cent McDonald's meal.

Or Foer puts it in the book, "S—became a problem when Americans decided we wanted to eat more meat than any other culture in history and had really little to do with it."

And yet I'm eating a chicken sandwich, even though I know what is in it. Apparently, I'm the exception, not the rule.

"I just got an e-mail from [a powerful Hollywood writer-director] who said, 'I haven't eaten meat since I read your book. I love the way you write about it for me.' You see, it wasn't the environment or the suffering of the animals. It was the feces in the food he eats that got him to give it up."

Such is Foer's mission: he's becoming more than just stray bits of dialogue in the great modern American novel. Jonathan Safran Foer has firmly posted that the chapter in "Eating Animals" about marine leeching into rivers "changed me from a 20-year vegetarian to a vegan activist."

And one "prominent environmentalist" Foer said, not revealing the green goddes's name, also said the book changed her life.

"She wrote me — this huge environmentalist! — and said that she couldn't give a s— about animals, but now has basically stopped eating meat because of what she learned about the environment," See FOER on page 9

## Foer's favorite veggie meals in the Slope

He's a vegetarian and a Brooklynite, which means that Jonathan Safran Foer has pretty strong opinions about the best places to avoid eating animals.

"I'm a vegetarian, but I eat certain veggie restaurants," he said. "Park Slope has plenty of good options for non-meat-eaters. Chinese food, Indian food — those are easy places to avoid meat."

So here's Foer's five top places and dishes:

### Olive Vine

54 Seventh Ave. between Lincoln



Falafel at Olive Vine.

and St. Johns places, (718) 622-2626

"If I'm going anywhere in the vicinity of that place, I'll go in and

get a falafel and baba ghanoush. It's insane. It's as good as it gets."

### Park Slope Taqueria

74 Seventh Ave. between Lincoln

and Berkeley places, (718) 398-4300

"I get the Berkeley vegetarian burrito, which has the roasted corn. It's great."

### 'snice

315 Fifth Ave. at Third Street, (718) 788-2121

"They have a Thai salad with edamame that I really like. I think



Veggie sushi at Yamato.

840-0099  
Now I eat carni [tofu skins with rice; vegetable tempura; avocado-and-chicken salad; the Japanese pickle platter; that's the yamato, and the excellent miso eggplant].

### Bonnie's Grill

278 Fifth Ave. between Garfield Place and First Street, (718) 369-9527

"Their veggie burger is f—king great. I mean, that hamburger would be like, but, believe it or not, I would choose their veggie burger over a hamburger. I know that sounds just like what a vegetarian would say, but they are maddeningly good."

## NIGHTLIFE

### Nerd night

Union Hall will host an unprecedented speed dating night for nerds, because nerds need love, too.

An appropriate soundtrack of 1980s hits will play as participants meet and greet — and rotate after every third song.

After the initial meet-and-greet "nerd" will write down the name of a suitable nerd, and the pair will get a chance to get to know each other. Those who don't find their other half will get their own second chance at a group min.

Organizer Jin Moon (pictured) says that all are welcome, no pocket protector required. About 40 people have already signed up — though Moon says there's been a recent dip in the number of nerd community. So geeky guys, here's your chance to find your perfect geeky date — in time for a New Year's Day.

"The idea of a nerd is very broad these days, we're not talking just someone of the Nerd's-type pointeader," she said.

"I Heart Nerds Speed Dating Night" at Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue) in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, Dec. 29 at 7:30 p.m. RSVP to [heartspeeddate@gmail.com](mailto:heartspeeddate@gmail.com).

— Sabrina Jassi

## DINING

### Tiny bubbles

Counting down with a cheap bottle of champagne is a crummy way to start the new year. But face it, all too many of us are in a cold due to the economy and decide to splurge, what beverage will ring in 2010 to someone merely requiring something from last year?

Lucky, The Greene Grape in Park Slope offers a way out. On Dec. 29 and 30, Fulton Street wine shop will offer a tasting of Henri Goutorbe sparkling offerings priced at under \$22, plus some high-end sparkling.



By Andy Campbell

In a preview champagne tasting, manager Michael Robertson showed off a 2002 Henri Goutorbe that comes directly from the growers. It's a bit spendy at \$50, but it had a sweet fruity finish and was a hit among the crowd.

"We small vintners, it just tastes better," said Robertson (pictured).

The tasting will include genuine Champagne from France, plus sparkling wines from the United States and Spain.

After the tasting, at least you've solved the annual problem of knowing some class to the looks-like-a-night-of-the-year.

Wine tasting at the Greene Grape (765 Fulton St. between Portland Avenue and Oxford Street), (718) 797-9463, Dec. 29 and 30, 5-7 p.m. For info, visit [brooklyn.greengrape.com](http://brooklyn.greengrape.com).

— Andy Campbell

## MUSIC

### We did it!

Singer-songwriter Greta Gerler will finish her new album — and she has Brooklyn (and its Paper) to thank for it.

As we reported back in October, the indie artist was trying to raise \$15,000 to produce her upcoming record, "The Universal Thump." The Sunset Park resident invited people to donate via a GoFundMe page, with incentives ranging from an autographed copy of the new album to a concert performance at the donor's residence.

Our coverage ended that Gertler raised the \$15,000 by the Dec. 9 deadline. If she didn't meet that fundraising goal, she would have had to refund the money.

"Until about the last day, I was stressed out because I thought I was going to fail," she said. "But the backers spread the word."

The highest-level contribution was \$2,000 — a donation so high that Gertler will compose a personal song for the donor.

For her experience, she said other artists should seek the public's support for making a record.

"I would do it again," she said, "but now I need a break to make music."

To keep up with Greta Gertler, visit [gretagerler.net](http://gretagerler.net).

— David Chiu

Ring in the New Year at **Le Petit Marché** with Entertainment, Party Favors & Champagne!

**EARLY SEATING**  
5:30: \$55 per person, plus tax and service charge

**OUR NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA: \$85** per person, plus tax and service charge

Call to reserve: (718) 858-9605

**Le Petit Marché**  
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**NEW YEAR'S EVE 2010**

**4th Annual Procrastinators Ball**

Celebrate in Dumbo!

Watch LIVE from Times Square on our 135 sq. ft. Jumbo-Tron screens

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[www.waterstreetrestaurant.com](http://www.waterstreetrestaurant.com)

440 Gallery presents  
**The Fifth Annual Small Works Show**

Dec. 3, 2009 – Jan. 10, 2010

Featuring affordable art for the holidays

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718-499-3844  
[www.440gallery.com](http://www.440gallery.com)

**CELEBRATE NEW YEARS EVE**  
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In our Elegant Private Upstairs Banquet Room

Thursday, December 31, 2009 8:30 pm to 2 am  
Champagne at Midnight • Open Bar All Night, Coffee  
Live DJ, Hats & Noise Makers

\$125 per person (all inclusive) • \$60 per child under 12 years  
*We are also offering a special Christmas Eve  
& New Years Eve Ala Carte Menu*

**HAPPIER HOLIDAYS!**

Escape the stress this holiday season by shopping locally at your neighborhood d'mai. d'mai is offering two holiday specials:

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Signature 60 Minute Massage — \$105\*  
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(both normally \$120)

**WEEK DAY SPECIAL:**

Any service on Thurs is 20% off\*

(\*not applicable when booking appointments.  
Not applicable when using gift certificates)

Let's remember happier economic times!

\*Offers valid until December 31, 2009



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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

**FRIDAY**

December 18

**Yo, Adrian!**

Adrian Grenier and his other entourage will hit Williamsburg's most-elegantly decorated bowling alley tonight. The vet from *Entourage* not only plays a drummer in the New-Wave folk band The Honey Brothers, he actually is one. We're sure his talent on the skins is what will draw the big crowd.

8 pm. Matsuhisa at Music Hall on Bedford Ave., N. Sixth St., between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486-5400. Tickets, \$35.

9 pm. The Honey Brothers at Brooklyn Bowl (514 Bedford Ave., between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg), (718) 963-3309. Tickets, \$10.

10 pm. *Ho ho ho*! No hymns here

What better way to celebrate the holidays than drunken music in the company of strangers?

We promise this boozey singalong will be much more fun than caroling with your great aunt.

Bring your voice or instrument. Given the location, someone better figure out what rhymes with "Ratner."

7 pm. Holiday singalong at Freddy's Backroom (485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights), (718) 322-7035.

**SATURDAY**

December 19

**Maccabee rapper**

Phish launched the Hasidic deadhead-Matisyahu tour now; here's how he's doing in the middle of a four-night stand at one of Brooklyn's biggest venues. He may arrive in a minivan instead of a limo, but the rapper's got chops, and we don't mean peyes.

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**SUNDAY**

December 20

**Xmas with an Afrobeat**

The Brooklyn-based Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra plays the Knitting Factory on Thursday nights after finishing its sold-out performance in the Broadway musical "Fela!" about the Nigerian musician. This kind of thing is nothing new for the group, which had legendary parties in Tribeca in the good old days.

11:30 pm. Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra at The Knitting Factory (361 Metropolitan Ave. at Hoyt Street in Williamsburg), (347) 529-6496. Tickets, \$12.

10 pm. *Ho ho ho*! No hymns here

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**FRIDAY**

December 25

**Holmes fires**

It's Christmas, but not everyone wants to be in church. So, do like the Jews and go see one of the hot holiday movies that are playing on Dec. 25. Action lovers can head for "Sherlock Holmes" on Court Street, or for the more refined loafer, "The Young Victoria" opens at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

10 pm. *Ho ho ho*! No hymns here

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CNG  
Community Newspaper Group

Published weekly at

1 MetroTech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn NY 11201 (718) 260-2500

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NORTH BROOKLYN ZONE Bushwick Paper, Greenpoint Paper, Williamsburg Paper

BAY RIDGE ZONE Bay Ridge Paper, Bensonhurst Paper

See 9 DAYS ON PAGE 10

**CIVIC CALENDAR****SUN, DEC. 20**

7th Precinct. Have your car truck, bike or electronic stored in the basement of the 7th Precinct stationhouse at 38 Water St. between Henry and Clinton Streets, Carroll Gardens (718) 834-1010.

8 pm. **MON. DEC. 21** Community Board 2 Panel and Recreational Committee. To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail [Calendar@cnglocal.com](mailto:Calendar@cnglocal.com)

9 pm. **TUE. DEC. 22** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

10 pm. **WED. DEC. 23** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

11 pm. **THUR. DEC. 24** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

12 am. **FRI. DEC. 25** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

1 pm. **SAT. DEC. 26** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

2 pm. **SUN. DEC. 27** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

3 pm. **MON. DEC. 28** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

4 pm. **TUE. DEC. 29** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

5 pm. **WED. DEC. 30** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

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7 pm. **FRI. JAN. 1** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

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9 pm. **SUN. JAN. 3** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

10 pm. **MON. JAN. 4** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

11 pm. **TUE. JAN. 5** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

12 am. **WED. JAN. 6** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

1 pm. **THUR. JAN. 7** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

2 pm. **FRI. JAN. 8** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

3 pm. **SAT. JAN. 9** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

4 pm. **SUN. JAN. 10** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

5 pm. **MON. JAN. 11** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

6 pm. **TUE. JAN. 12** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

7 pm. **WED. JAN. 13** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

8 pm. **THUR. JAN. 14** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

9 pm. **FRI. JAN. 15** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

10 pm. **SAT. JAN. 16** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

11 pm. **SUN. JAN. 17** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

12 am. **MON. JAN. 18** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

1 pm. **TUE. JAN. 19** 26th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 20

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December 18, 2009

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AWP 9



Noah Bernamoff, a native Montrealer, is about to change pastrami forever, thanks to his soon-to-open "smoked meat" (that's Canadian for pastrami) shop on Hoyt Street.



## Pudding on the ritz

You don't go to a British-style pub for the food — and you certainly don't go for the dessert.

Burton Bennett, the new publican on S. Sixth Street in the real hipster heart of Williamsburg, offers some

“goods” for “afters” that is worth a trip: a chocolate cake.

It's like taking the greatest thing the French ever did (put chocolate in bread) and combine it with the greatest thing the English ever did (turn bread into pudding).

First of all, the crossant is all cut up into bite-sized pieces. Then, an eggy custard

is added (to make it suitably English). Then, the whole thing is singed under the broiler to give a bit of crunchiness on top without crusting the chocolate and custard, which is a lava flow of gooey satisfaction.

And it's just \$5.

If there's a better dessert value in this town, we'd like to know.

Chocolate all over it and in the sandwich for a minute or two, of course.

Gordon Bennett Pub and Grub [109 S. Sixth St. between Bedford Avenue and Berry Street, (718) 599-9109]

— Gersh Kuntzman

## FOER...

*Continued from page 7*  
tal toll from my book,” he said. “She said she was simply unaware of the effects of factory farming on the environment.”

I choked on my chicken. How is it possible that the woman, whose Foer shared with me, was not aware?

“How is it possible?” he asked. “How is it possible that Al Gore never talks about factory farming? The United Nations says it is responsible for 51 percent of greenhouse gas emissions? How is it possible that he never uses the word ‘meat’ and ‘Copenhagen’ in the same sentence? It’s crazy. It’s preposterous. Greenhouse gas emissions can everything put together.”

In other words, people like Al Gore know, but they choose to forget. And when they do talk about their current battle — the fight against industrial and vegetable agriculture — the last of us. I said as I downed the last bite of my sandwich, know just don’t care.

Foer disagreed: “It’s not an intellectual issue. If you go to

a factory farm and you see a pregnant pig in a crate so small it can’t turn around, it’s just wrong. It’s just wrong.”

He’s right. Even the East Coast eaters, nearly-six percent of Americans deserve legal protection. So it doesn’t matter what the word is.

It’s a bad mistake to confuse something pleasant with something wrong.

Foer, of course, has made the point that the world is sticking with it. “For me, it’s about the kind of civilization we want to create,” he said. “There are people who are going to be cracking open a conscious monkey’s skull and eating its brain. Is that person wrong? Maybe we can’t say that, but we know that it’s wrong for me.”

Yes, Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Eating Animals* is available at the Garden Court Bookstore, between Pacific and Dean streets, (718) 875-3677) and Greenlight Books, 246-0200. A full transcript of this interview is available at Brooklynpaper.com.

**BROOKLYN FRAME WORKS GALLERY PRESENTS:  
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**9 DAYS...**

Continued from page 8

Bedford-Stuyvesant, 212-593-1000.  
**BROOKLYN FLEA:** Free, 10 am-5 pm, Bishop Loughlin HS Gymnasium, 1000 Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene; www.brownstoneartflea.com.  
**ARTISTS AND FLEAS:** Free, 11 am-6 pm, 1129 N. Sixth St., between 11th and 12th avenues and Berry Street in Williamsburg; www.artistsandfleas.com.

**HOLIDAY CRAFT MARKET:** Free, 10 am-5 pm, Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. at Preston Place], Park Slope; www.bklnartscenter.com.

**OTHER**  
**ART, "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL":** Great rock photographs from 1955 to the present. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**ART, MICRO MUSEUM OPEN RAISER:** Meet founding artists William and Kathleen Lauer, Donatella and Michael Sartori, and others.

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS LARGE-RAN:** Author of "Feed the Belly: The Prequel to the Art of the Flea Survival Guide," Free, 2 pm, Barnes & Noble, 1000 Avenue of the Americas, 247 Seventh Street at Sixth Street in Park Slope; www.slopes.com.

**ART, "MUSICAL CONCERT:** Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra presents works by Beethoven and Brahms.

**RELIGION, LIVING NATIVITY SCENE:** Live nativity scene with live animals and narrators. Free, 3-6 pm. New Utrecht Reformed Church, 183rd Street at Benhorst, (718) 236-0678.

**SCIENCE, "THE COSTS WITH SOLAR POWER":** Free, 3 pm, City Science Center, between 13th and 14th streets in Park Slope; (718) 230-0019. www.cityscience.org.

**TALK, LATIN AMERICAN, AND CONTEMPORARY ART:** Free, 6 pm, Brooklyn Public Library's Central Branch, 1000 Avenue of the Americas at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope; www.bklynlibrary.org.

**RELIGION, MENORAH LIGHTINGS:** 6 pm. See Fri.

**SPORTS, AMATEUR BOXING SHOW:** Weight-in at 4 pm, weigh-outs at 5 pm, registered amateurs, 6 pm. Gleason's Gym [77 Front St. at Court Street, between DUMBO], (718) 797-2872; www.gleasons.com.

**FILM, "HIS GIRL FRIDAY":** 6:30 and 9:15 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**SUN, DEC. 20**

**PERFORMANCE**

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Free, 10:30 am, Bethel Lutheran Church, 404 Fourth and Ovington avenues in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-9407; www.bethelchurch.org.

**ART, "BRIEF ENCOUNTER":** 1 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

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**ART, "PAGES OF THE PAST":** Drawings of early Dutch-American life from 1620 to 1820, 10 am-4 pm, Brooklyn Historical Society [28 Clinton Street at Clinton Street at Clinton Heights], (718) 787-4960.

**ART, "SPRING NEUTER YOUR PET":** Free or low cost. Petland Bed-Stuy/Metuchen will be between Myrtle and Nostrand streets in Greenpoint; (877) 874-SPRING; www.petland.org/877spnyc.

**ART, "THERE'S CRACKERS":** 2 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 19.

**ART, "THREE BOB CRATCHIT'S WILD CHRISTMAS BINGE":** 3 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 19.

**THEATER, "A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE":** 3 pm.

**ART, "VIOLIN CONCERT":** Works by Brahms, Schubert, and Beethoven. See Saturday, Dec. 19.

**ART, "WINTER FESTIVAL CONCERT":** Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra presents works by Beethoven and Brahms.

**RELIGION, LIVING NATIVITY SCENE:** Live nativity scene with live animals and narrators. Free, 3-6 pm. New Utrecht Reformed Church, 183rd Street at Benhorst, (718) 236-0678.

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**PERFORMANCE**

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**ART, "HIS GIRL FRIDAY":** 4:30 and 9:15 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**YOUTH, "HIS GIRL FRIDAY":** 1 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 19.

**ART, "CHRISTMAS/HANUKAH KARAOKE":** Includes food, booths, karaoke, and holiday cheer with your Republican friends. Proceeds to the USO. See Saturday, Dec. 19, 7 pm, [1511 10th Ave. in Brooklyn Heights], (718) 369-9583; www.bklynhanukkah.com.

**MUSIC, PUB SINGALONG:** Instrument: 7 pm. Freddy's Backroom [485 Dean St. at Smith Street, between Nostrand and Atlantic heights], (718) 622-7035; www.freddysbackroom.com.

**MUSIC, PUB SINGALONG:** Instrument: 7 pm. Freddy's Backroom [485 Dean St. at Smith Street, between Nostrand and Atlantic heights], (718) 622-7035; www.freddysbackroom.com.

**MUSIC, SUPA-FESTIVAL:** See Saturday, Dec. 19.

**PSA, FLEA MARKET:** See Saturday, Dec. 19.

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Sat. Sat. Sat. Sat. Sat.**

**FARMERS MARKET:** Free, 11 am-5 pm, 1000 Avenue of the Americas and Fourth Street in Park Slope; (718) 230-2100.

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December 18, 2009

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AWP 11  
Editor of the Year

# The Brooklyn Paper PARENT

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

## OSFO's big Facebook blunder

**S**marmom had barely recovered from chastening the past week's slumber party at the Marriott with her 12-year-old girls. She couldn't sleep and she did what she often does when she can't sleep: she checked her e-mail; and noticed an email from another mom who lives in the neighborhood.

"I want you to know that there were lots of photos on Facebook of the girls at a party in their underwear. The photos are very suggestive. I'd never want to interfere but I thought I should know," wrote.

Smarmom looked at the pictures that mom had conveniently attached. They

were of the Oh So Feisty One in the adorable polka-dotted and striped underwear they'd bought together just a few months ago.

But the pose and her expression were, er, yeah, kinda provocative.

She was a good, it's-a-kid she was wearing a bikini suit and the girls were just having fun. But Facebook is a very public place and those photos were all wrong there — like a child porn site — it would be pretty awful. It's a good thing that Dumb Editor didn't run the photo.

It all started because OSFO had borrowed Hecapt's fancy schmancy new Canon camera during the Marriott soiree.

OSFO was amazed that she'd e-mailed her friend, a it's-a-kid who



By Louise Crawford

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## FAMILY CALENDAR

FRI, DEC. 18

11:30 am Storytime with Emily, Weekly event, Moxy Spot [81 Atlantic Ave between Carroll and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710], thru Jan. 15.

7 pm "A Charlie Brown Christmas," Classic show at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 237-2572, www.brooklynlyceum.com

8 pm "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," at Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816], www.brooklynlyceum.com

9 pm "Peter and the Wolf" and "The Frog Prince," See Saturday, Dec. 19.

10 pm Science power hour, See Saturday, Dec. 19.

2 pm "A Charlie Brown Christmas," See Friday, Dec. 18.

SAT, DEC. 19

Noon "Twas The Night Before Christmas," Holiday show for kids, \$5, Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816], www.brooklynlyceum.com

12:30 and 2:30 pm Puppet show, "Peter and the Wolf" and "The Frog Prince," \$8 (kids, \$7), Puppetworks [338 Sixth Ave., between Carroll and Henry Streets in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391], www.puppetworks.org

1 pm Original songs by Joni Saks, Free Brooklyn Public Library's Central Branch [10 Carroll Ave at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 237-2572], www.nypl.org

1-3 pm Theater and fun day featuring Richard Lewis and Tomstone Comedy Theatre [10 Carroll St. at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 237-2540], www.prospectpark.org/auditions

2 pm "A Charlie Brown Christmas," See Friday, Dec. 18.

3 pm Science power hour, Learn about nature, Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, between Carroll and Henry Streets in Park Slope, (718) 237-3400], www.prospectpark.org/audubon

4 pm "The Hard Nut," Group Monte Carlo, Hill Cumorah [265 Court St. at Butler Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 596-9113], www.bigmoversandlittlekids.blogspot.com

TUES, DEC. 22

11 am Storytime for kids, Preschoolers, 104 Court Street [104 Court St. between Livingston and Steward Streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 246-4996].

11 am Singalong with Lloyd Michael Spitz [81 Atlantic Ave between Hicks and Henry Streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710], www.brooklynlyceum.com

4 pm "The Hard Nut," Group Monte Carlo, Hill Cumorah [265 Court St. at Butler Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 596-9113], www.bigmoversandlittlekids.blogspot.com

11 am "Music Classes and Stories," See Saturday, Dec. 19.

1 pm "Jingle Bell Jammie," The annual family concert presented by Prospect Park Audubon Center [10 Carroll St. at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 238-8300].

8 pm "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," See Friday, Dec. 18.

To list your event, visit BrooklynPaper.com/events/submit

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## SMITH

*Continued from page 1*

of life." Harding said. "It's getting a lot harder to make a buck in Brooklyn. Families are stretched to the limit. I'm right behind them."

The closing of Mamary's eatery are following in the footsteps of Pastore's, Mamay and Hardings' sponsoring French restaurant, whose garlic muffins changed the street's unsatisfied face forever.

It's unclear exactly what Mamary

plans to do with the five remaining restaurants in which he still holds stakes: Ponto de Terra, Gowanus Yacht Club, Black Market, Brooklyn House, Cafe Enduro and Zombie Hut.

And Harding still has a piece of the Gowanus Yacht Club in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn Heights and Sweetwater in Williamsburg.

And even today, there are plenty of restaurant owners on Smith Street who hold Mamary in high esteem, though he's been a bit of a jerk lately. He's been a jerk, but he's still not making the cut.

Worse, Brocko broke the first commandment: Thou shall not change thy.

name every two weeks.

"Buddha had great food," said Maio Martino, owner of the Italian restaurant between Hoyt and Carroll Streets. "It closed and I missed a lot, [changing names from] Gravy to the Fish Shack to this."

Martino added that Mamary's influence on the dining scene may not actually be his own downfall — restaurants springing up over the past five years on the strip have overestimated the market.

Her advice for would-be restaurateurs considering Smith Street?

"Go somewhere else," she said.

## FOWL...

*Continued from page 1*

As a solution to the problem with stray monofilament, Ausonio noted that a fishing line recycling program at Harlem Meer in Central Park had been very successful.

Others were also reluctant to criticize fishermen, who have a vested interest in conserving the fragile urban ecology.

"Most fishermen don't leave monofilament behind," said Glenn Phillips, director of the New York Audubon Society. "But all it takes is an irresponsible minority to make a big difference."

Bahlman and Titze are hoping that officials will ramp up enforcement and education regarding proper fishing procedures, but a spokesman for the park added a dose of reality.

"The lake has more garbage than we like," said Eugene Patron, the spokesman for the Prospect Park Alliance. "There just aren't enough [enforcement officers] on the entire 60-acre watercourse to make sure people are doing what they should."

So now, if you see something, squawk something.

## BONDS...

*Continued from page 1*

officials," said Daniel Goldstein, spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, the main Atlantis' opposition group. "The state will be on the hook if the project doesn't go forward."

The bond sale is only the latest blow to those opposed to the project that would completely change the face of Prospect Heights. Most important, New York's highest court ruled that the state justified its use of eminent domain to seize the property of the non-profit developer.

With the sale of the bonds completed, the next step is a "master closing," in which contracts are finalized and eminent domain-empowered seizures of privately owned land actually begin.

Rather than pleasure done will be built from funds derived from a curious mix of agencies, investors and Russian billionaires. Here's how it'll put together the final deal:

• Tuesday's bond sale netted \$511 million.

• Renter will eventually sell \$100 million in taxable bonds.

The city will then pay tax-exempt ones — except that investors pay taxes on them.

• Rather and his new power forward, Russian oligarch Mikhail Prokhorov, who has agreed to buy 80 percent of the new arena for \$350 million from Ratner, will put up \$250 million of their own.

• Another \$164.3 million will come from the city in the form of infrastructure improvements, according to an Independent Budget Office report.

That adds up to a \$1.164-billion basketball arena at the corner of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.



## Resolution No.1: get in shape for my other resolutions

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## OUR OPINION

# Big bike blunder

**T**HIS city's much-hyped "bikes-in-buildings" law went into effect last Friday. Forgive us if we don't get too excited.

Major mistake — as cyclists, we support efforts to improve bike commuting by requiring commercial building owners to allow their tenants to bring their bicycles up to their offices.

But this law, championed by outgoing Mayor David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights), is so rife with exemptions that it will be about as useful as a flat tire. As a law professor and council veteran himself, Yassky should be ashamed to try to pass off another piece of bureaucratic sausage.

Like so many times in the past, he and his colleagues failed to consider how a law would play out where the rubber meets the road.

In this case, the process is just too onerous. Indeed, before any bike gets to come in from the cold (or rain, or thieves), the

**This law is so flawed that it will be about as useful as a flat tire.**

cyclist must first write a letter to his boss asking the boss to send his own letter — by certified mail, no less — to the building owner seeking such access.

Why should a cyclist have to write in the hope of asking his boss to wade into the bubbling cauldron of this city's bicycle policies? Because it's the law.

"Convincing your employer of the benefits of cycling is like trying to wake you up to you and your fellow bicycle co-workers," the Department of Transportation fact sheet said.

The next headache is that a commuting employee must then initiate the formal request from the owner of their building. It's absurd to make the law's pur-

posed beneficiaries — health-conscious employees and the bosses who want to keep them happy — be the instrument of its actual initiation.

After all, the building owner has plenty of exceptions.

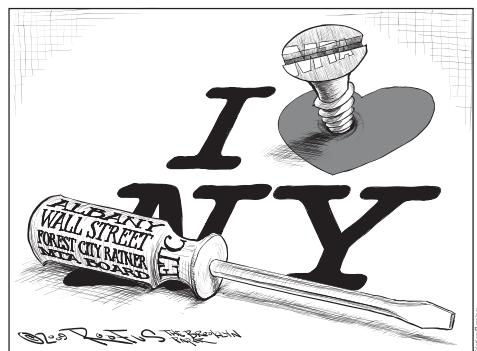
First of all, only buildings with freight elevators are covered — so if yours doesn't have a heavy-duty Otis, don't bring your bike.

And the elevator must be inspected by the city — another hurdle — and declared "safe" (whatever that is).

And after all that, the building owner is not obligated to make it available before business hours anyway. So tough luck, all you midnight oil-burning cyclists.

Bike advocates say that they got as much as they could from the Council, but if anyone had shown even a modicum of common sense, this flawed law would have never gotten out of committee.

## ALL DRAWN OUT



Cartoon by Trudeau

## LETTERS

## Cat Man don't! I'm not only suing for the money

To the editor,

I liked your telling of my story ("Cat man's crazy case," Dec. 4) except for that quote that suggested I was suing Long Island College Hospital because I need the money. I did say that, but this is not about money. It is about justice and demanding medical procedures be given.

Doctors should be more than drug pushers for the pharmaceutical industry, and they should listen and confirm a story fore me. I am not bipolar in this case, me — with a mental illness that will become a lifelong tag and a pre-existing condition that will jack up a patient's insurance rates forever.

I now have the burden of prov-

**Send a letter**  
By e-mail:  
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By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One MetroTech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201. All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number. Letters to the editor's name and neighborhood are published with the letter. Letters may be edited for length and returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

ing that I am not "bipolar with psychosis in partial remission," which was the prognosis of a doctor who told me, "You will never get well again." I need medical help.

An impartial and non-scien-

tific observer might have con-

cluded that I had never been sick to begin with.

It is thoughtful and kind —

or is it ironic and thoughtless?

**Chris Muth,  
neighborhood withheld**

The writer is also known as

"the Cat Man," for his hel-

efit to save a tree last year.

Chris Muth, aka the Cat Man, who's suing Long Island College Hospital.

2010 until our building was taken out of his route. We felt he was one of us, pleasant, de-

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# Cold Weather Tips: Save Energy. Save Money. Stay Warm.

Conservation is a smart energy strategy year round. Frigid weather brings its own challenges for New Yorkers, and these cold weather tips offer ways to help you keep warm, save energy and get help with energy bills.

## CONSERVE

- Seal leaks around windows and doors with caulk or weather stripping.
- Keep drapes or furniture away from heat sources so heat can flow freely.
- Open curtains and let the sun warm rooms; close them at night to keep heat in.
- Close doors and warm-air vents in unused rooms.
- Get financial incentives for upgrades to homes and businesses that will help you save energy and money. Learn more at [www.conEd.com/energyefficiency](http://www.conEd.com/energyefficiency) or call **1-877-870-6118**.
- Find more energy tips at [www.conEd.com](http://www.conEd.com) and [www.getenergysmart.org](http://www.getenergysmart.org), the web site of **NYSERDA** – New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

## GET HELP

- Call **1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633)** if you're having trouble paying your energy bill.
- Ask about our Level Payment Plan, which spreads payments evenly over the year so colder months are less of a burden.
- If you're income-eligible, you can get help from the Con Edison-sponsored EnergyShare fund at **1-877-480-SHARE**, or the Federal Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) at **1-800-692-0557** in NYC or **1-914-995-5619** in Westchester County.
- If you receive a HEAP grant for another utility or an oil company and pay Con Edison bills, you may be eligible for our low-income rate. To qualify, fax a copy of your award letter to **1-212-844-0110**.

## STAY SAFE

- Never use your kitchen gas range or oven to heat your home. It can cause a fire or create lethal carbon monoxide gas.
- Never extinguish a pilot light. It could lead to a dangerous gas leak.
- If you smell gas, leave the area at once and call **1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633)**. A gas leak has the smell of rotten eggs. Don't light matches or use any electrical device.
- Report electric service problems at **1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633)** or online at [www.conEd.com](http://www.conEd.com).
- If you see steam on Manhattan streets, call us immediately at **1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633)** so we can check it out. Steam is caused by water falling on a steam pipe or manhole cover, or it is caused by a leak.



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AWP 15



# Bikes in buildings? Be sure to read the fine print

**Many steps must be taken before you can freely store your two-wheeler at work**

**By Stephen Brown**  
The Brooklyn Paper

The bike-in-building law went into effect last Friday — and now starts the hard part for Brooklyn cyclists.

Just because Local Law 52 — officially the "Bicycle Access to Office Buildings Law" — is now actually here doesn't mean you can leave your Hurley up to your cubicle.

Indeed, you have to make the first call.

In all, there are many steps that need to be undertaken — all involving significant hurdles — before your office can become your bike's home. (Transit Alternatives has put together a handle guide on its Web site.) Here's a summary:

1. You or one of your co-workers needs to formally ask your employer if you can use your bicycle while working. (To some bikers, this is the equivalent of having to ask your manager if you can go to the restroom.)

2. Your employer must agree. If your employer chooses not to accede to your wishes, the process leads there, leaving your bike out in the cold where birds and

thieves can get on it. There's no time like the law to require your employer to comply.

"Convincing your employer of the need for you and your fellow cyclist co-workers," said a Department of Transportation spokesman.

That said, you may have a great relationship with your boss, but what ultimately matters more is your boss's relationship with the building owner — and your boss' boss' relationship with the person who sets the rent.

3. If your employer actually wants to be bike-friendly, he or she can download a form from the Department of Transportation's Web site to request that the building owner complete a "Bicycle Access Plan." That's a copy of the "Bicycle Access Plan" — there's a link to it on the D.O.T.'s website.

4. Within 30 days, the building management must implement that plan.

5. But that freight elevator need only be operating during regular

business hours.

Or, worse, if you're lucky,

the main one is that buildings without freight elevators are automatically out.

6. After that, your building owner doesn't need to let you haul your bike upstairs if he or she provides "covered, sufficient, secure, off-road bicycle storage areas on the premises or within three blocks or 750 feet, whichever is less."

What does "secure" mean? Try and see if the parking mast is never locked, monitored or restricted from the general public and there must be structures to which cyclists can tether their bikes.

Another extension is allowed if the freight elevator has some "substantial safety risks directly related to its use for bicycle access."

6. But that freight elevator need

only be operating during regular

business hours.  
**Editorial: Council's bad bill should never have been passed**

**SEE PAGE 12**

The good news? In both cases, the Department of Transportation will inspect the building to verify that the owner really is providing this parking and not just getting away with it.

The department will explain its ruling by certified mail, by the way.

All of this may sound overwhelming, but the city's main bike advocacy groups were stoked that riders may soon be able to store their spokes.

Now, here's a foot in the door — a door that has been closed for a generation," said Wiley Norvell of Transportation Alternatives, which was instrumental in getting Local Law 52 — Brooklyn Heights and the Bloomberg administration to do it.

Fellow bike advocate Benjamin Siegel of Time's Up agreed.

"This is just too difficult to bike to work," she said.

So far, no major Brooklyn building owner has come forward with a pre-existing bike access plan, though DUMBO titan David Walentas already provides secure, off-road bicycle storage areas on the ground floor of many of his buildings.

Such storage rooms are not fool-proof; some bikers said, as thieves can sneak in after hours and gash workers' wheels.

at a "British Invasion" radio station. First off, where will the bikes go?

"They can't be stored in any corner, in a illegal spot," Adalyn Datone told the Real Estate Board of New York, which opposed the bill. "And they can't block any exits."

And the building owners don't need to pay the extra mile with the freight elevator, either.

"No employer will pay for overtime freight elevator use," said Daniel Gitterman of DUMBO.

Davenport added that the Real Estate Board's internal surveys find little demand for bike-friendly buildings anyway.

"It just too difficult to bike to work," she said.

So far, no major Brooklyn building owner has come forward with a pre-existing bike access plan, though DUMBO titan David Walentas already provides secure, off-road bicycle storage areas on the ground floor of many of his buildings.

Such storage rooms are not fool-proof; some bikers said, as thieves can sneak in after hours and gash workers' wheels.



A Downtown office worker secures his wheels to an outdoor bike rack. Someday, he might be able to bring his ride inside.

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